

REMARKS

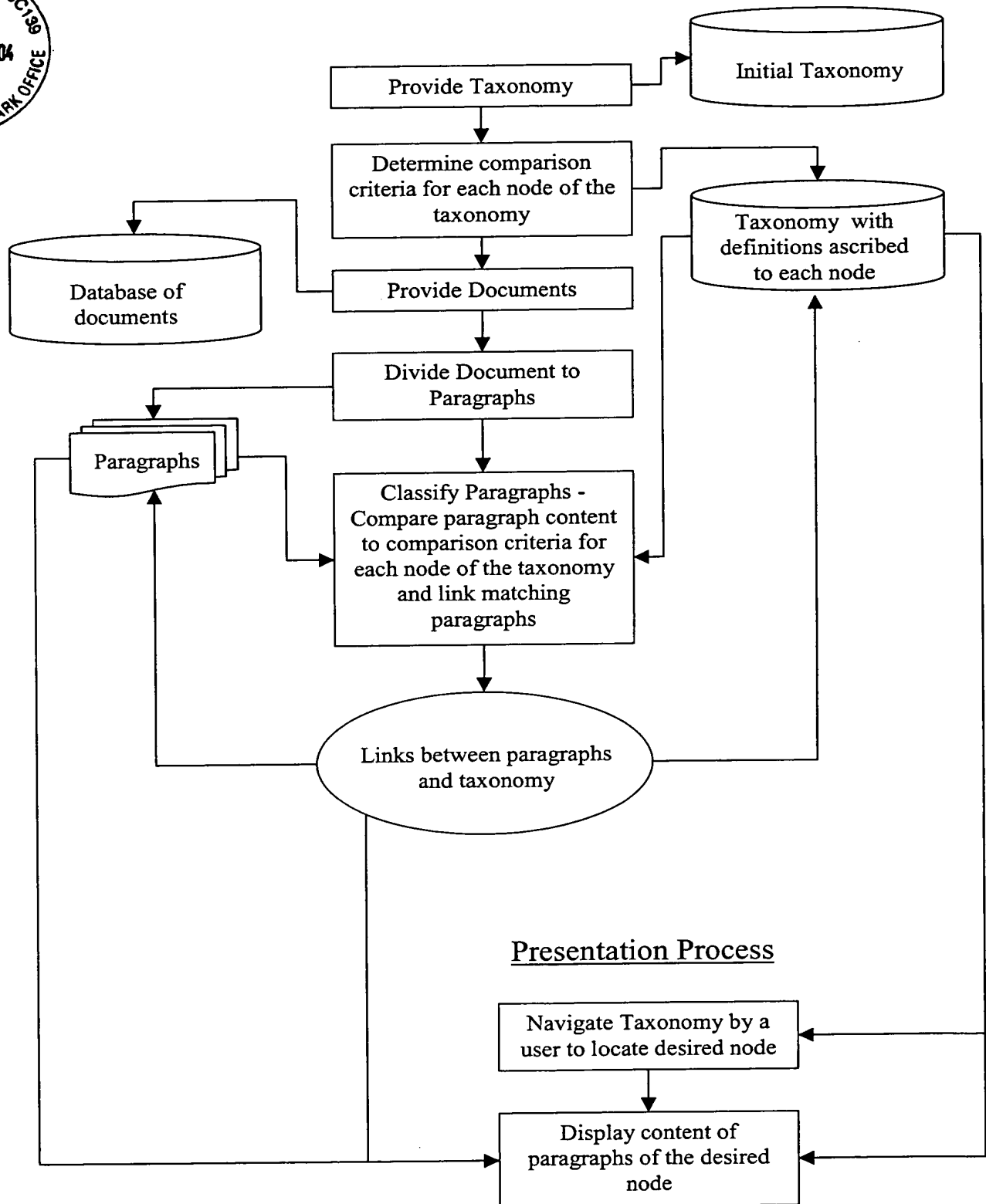
Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested. Claims 23-31 are in this case. Claims 23-31 have been rejected under § 102a. Claims 23-31 have been amended.

The Applicant believes that the claims before the Examiner now correspond to allowable subject matter, as will be detailed below.

Substance of Interview of March 9, 2004

The interview was based around the "draft for Discussion" faxed to the Examiner on March 3rd, 2004. The draft included an amended independent claim 23 for discussion. The Applicant discussed the present invention with the Examiner and the amended independent claim. The Examiner stated that the invention appears to be a taxonomy system. The Examiner stated that general taxonomy systems are known in the art. The Applicant explained that in the prior art, nodes of a taxonomy are classified to whole documents, whereas the nodes of the taxonomy of the present invention are classified to paragraphs of documents. These aspects and their advantages are discussed in more detail below. The Examiner suggested filing a response to the Official Action (mailed March 16, 2004) with amended claims and supporting remarks. The Examiner also requested an overview flowchart. An overview flowchart and an example of the presentation step of the present invention are included below.

Overview Flow Chart



The screenshot shows a legal research database interface with several callouts explaining its components:

- Top Node:** A callout pointing to the "Corporate Law" node in the left-hand taxonomy tree.
- Path in the taxonomy to the node the user chose:** A callout pointing to the path "Corporate Law » Business Combinations & Spin-Offs » Sale of Assets" in the left-hand taxonomy tree.
- The name of the document from which the paragraph was extracted:** A callout pointing to the document title "ALBERT A. CHAKNOVA et al., Plaintiffs and Appellants, v. WILBUR-ELLIS COMPANY, Defendant and Respondent." in the right-hand pane.
- Word Groups:** A callout pointing to the word "assets" in the paragraph text, which is highlighted in yellow.
- Multiple Windows Window:** A callout pointing to the "Multiple Windows" button in the bottom right corner of the interface.
- A node the user Chose to view:** A callout pointing to the "Spin-Offs" node in the left-hand taxonomy tree.

The interface displays a list of documents in the right-hand pane, with the selected document's text visible below it. The text includes a paragraph discussing the sale of assets and the liability of the former corporation.

The Claims of the Present Invention

The claims of the present invention are directed toward a system and method for organizing and retrieving paragraphs of documents using a taxonomy. In particular, Independent claims 23 and 27 have been amended to claim the following method and system, respectively. The steps include providing a taxonomy (disclosed in paragraph 0106 of the published patent application of the present invention). As indicated by the Examiner this step is not novel by itself. The steps include providing a database of documents. The documents are divided into paragraphs (disclosed in paragraph 0113 of the published patent application of the present invention). The paragraphs are classified by: (i) comparing the content of each of the paragraphs to the comparison criteria for each of the nodes; and (iii) creating links in between each of the paragraphs which has a match and matching node(s) (disclosed in paragraph 0109 of the published patent application of the present invention). Therefore, links between the nodes of a taxonomy and individual paragraphs of documents are created. Then a user can navigate the taxonomy to find a desired node of interest. Then, the paragraphs linked to the desired node are retrieved for display to the user.

Some Advantages of Classifying Paragraphs as Opposed to Classifying Whole Documents

Firstly, the tags of a classified paragraph database are much more refined in a classified paragraph database than in a classified document database. Whereas in a classified document database, each document is tagged as a whole, in the paragraph database, the tags are ascribed to each one of the paragraphs. Therefore, at an instant it is known: (i) how many paragraphs deal with each concept; (ii) what is the percentage of classified paragraphs in a whole document (i.e. how important is the

document); (iii) which terms from the word groups appear at the paragraph level; (iv) which word group(s) best describe the document as a whole (according to the number of paragraphs that are associated with the word groups; (v) which nodes best describe the document. Another advantage is the ability to slice documents horizontally so that paragraphs of the same node in the taxonomy are displayed together.

§102(a) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 23-31 as being unpatentable over DeRosa et al. (US Patent No. 6,055,544) (henceforth, "DeRose"). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

While continuing to traverse the Examiner's rejections, and without in any way prejudicing the patentability of the rejected claims, the Applicant has, in order to expedite the prosecution, chosen to amend claims 23-31. Independent claims 23 and 27 have been amended to include addition limitations, described above. Dependent claims 24-26 and 28-31 have been amended to reflect the changes to claims 23 and 27.

DeRose teaches providing a content index and an element index for a single document or a group of connected documents, such as a series of volumes by the same author or publisher. The indexes provided by DeRose are based upon elements of the document, the elements being defined by tags of a general markup language which are present in the document. If the structure of the underlying document changes so does the content index and the element index. If a document does not contain markup tags the indexes of DeRosa cannot be implemented. The content index is simply a content of the document based upon sections and subsections of the document as defined by the markup tags. The element index is an index which indicates the number of occurrences of a particular word in a particular element. The

indexes of DeRose are not a taxonomy and therefore, the steps performed by DeRose are not performed with relation to a taxonomy. For Example, DeRose does not teach classifying paragraphs of documents to nodes of a taxonomy.

The claims of the present invention include the limitation of “providing a taxonomy”. The indexes of DeRose are not a taxonomy.

The claims of the present invention include the limitation of “classifying the paragraphs of the documents to the nodes of the taxonomy”. Again, DeRose obviously cannot teach this limitation. There are other obvious differences between the limitations of the claims of the present invention and the teachings of DeRose.

Therefore, the amended claims of the present invention are not anticipated by DeRose.

The present invention also claims the limitation of “comparing the content of each of said paragraphs to said comparison criteria, for each of said nodes of said taxonomy”. Again, DeRose does not teach a taxonomy and therefore this limitation cannot be taught by DeRose.

The present invention also claims the limitation of “creating links between each of said paragraphs which have a match and at least one matching node of said nodes of said taxonomy”. Again DeRose does not teach a taxonomy and therefore this limitation cannot be taught by DeRose..

The above two claim limitations are novel over a prior art taxonomy system. As stated above, the above two claim limitations are novel over DeRose, as DeRose does not teach a taxonomy. Therefore, a prior art taxonomy system cannot be combined with DeRose to reject the above-amended claims as obvious.

Therefore, the amended claims of the present invention are not even unpatentable over a prior art taxonomy in view of DeRose.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 23 and 27, and hence also dependent claims 24-26 and 28-31, are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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